GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3706
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
FRL of Dams
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhakhra and Pong dams are not filled up to Full Reservoir Level (FRL), if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(b) whether the Government proposes to direct the BBMB to conduct a study to fix the maximum water level in the Bhakhra and Pong dams, if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether there is any possibility to fill the dams up to FRL with the help of latest techniques, proper planning and weather forecast, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the steps taken/to be taken towards filling up the dams to their full level?

Answer

(a) & (b) The designed FRL of Bhakra and Pong Dams are 1685 ft and 1400 ft respectively. After the devastating floods in 1988, a Committee formed by Government of India in 1989 issued guidelines for filling up of Bhakra & Pong Reservoirs. In view of these guidelines, the Bhakra Beas Management Board in its 138th& 139thmeetings in 1990 decided that maximum level at Bhakra and Pong reservoirs should be kept at 1680 ft and 1390 ft respectively for the storage purposes. However, in case the levels are allowed to rise a little higher for the purposes of flood routing/absorption and to avoid synchronization of releases with those of rivulets downstream of the dams, the levels would be brought down as soon as the conditions downstream of the reservoirs permit. The maximum levels attained during the last ten years are given in Annexure.
(c) & (d) Filling up of dam is based on decision taken by the Technical Committee represented by the Chief Engineers of the partner States, based on the actual availability / inflows.
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